Message Text

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PAGE 01 RABAT 04938 080910Z ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

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INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

CONFIDENTIAL RABAT 4938

EXDIS

EO 11652: XGDS-1 TAGS: MO ME

SUBJECT: MOROCCAN FOREIGN MINISTER'S COMMENTS ON MIDDLE EAST DEVELOPMENTS

1. FOREIGN MINISTER LARAKI RECEIVED ME SEPTEMBER 6,
DURING ONE-DAY STOPOVER IN RABAT AND QUICK DINNER IN IFRANE
WITH KING HASSAN BETWEEN CAIRO ARAB FOREIGN MINISTERS'
MEETING AND LIBREVILLE VISIT WITH BONGO ON LUSAKA SUMMIT.
HE WAS DISAPPOINTED OVER PLO REJECTION OF U.S. INITIATIVE
AIMING AT PLO ACCEPTANCE OF SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION
242 WITH RESERVATIONS AND OPENING OF DIRECT U.S-PLO
CONTACTS. HAVING SEEN A NUMBER OF PLO REPRESENTATIVES AND
"OTHER CONTACTS" IN CAIRO, FOREIGN MINISTER
CONSIDERED PLO REJECTION AS HAVING RESULTED FROM HARDENED
ISRAELI LINE DURING AND AFTER SECRETARY'S MIDDLE EAST
TRIP. ISRAELIS HAD FIRST "LEGALIZED" THREE ILLEGAL SETTLEMENTS ON WEST BANK, A MOVE WHICH USG AND OTHERS HAD
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 RABAT 04938 080910Z

CRITICIZED. THEN U.S. INITIATIVE ON SC RES 242 HAD SURFACED, MEETING TOTAL ISRAELI HOSTILITY. ISRAELIS HAD THEREUPON "ESCALATED" SITUATION TO SABOTAGE U.S. INITIATIVE BY TAKING POSITION THEY WOULD BE UNWILLING TO TALK WITH PLO EVEN IF IT ACCEPTED SC RES. PLO HAD THEREFORE HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO RESPOND NEGATIVELY AT DAMASCUS MEETING TO U.S. INITIATVE. LARAKI BELIEVED THAT DOOR NEVERTHELESS REMAINED OPEN ON

THIS INITIATIVE, AND NOTED

THAT DISCUSSIONS WERE CONTINUING. HE INDICATED THAT HIS PROJECTED SEPTEMBER 8-9 VISIT TO CAIRO WOULD INVOLVE FURTHER SOUNDINGS WITH PLO, AND SAID THAT HE LOOKED FORWARD TO GIVING SECRETARY FULL REPORT AT MEETING WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 12 IN WASHINGTON (ANDERSON-BISHOP TELECON SEPT. 6).

2. LARAKI ALSO CONFIDED THAT MOROCCO HAD TAKEN A POSITION AT CAIRO MEETING ALONG WITH OTHER MODERATES AGAINST A MOVE TO BRING LATEST ISRAELI POSITIONS ON PLO AND WEST BANK SETTLEMENTS BEFORE UN SECURITY COUNCIL. GOM ASSESSMENT HAD BEEN THAT GOING TO SECURITY COUNCIL, WHERE U.S. VETO WOULD HAVE TO BE USED, COULD ONLY HAVE ADVERSE IMPACT ON SETTLEMENT EFFORTS, TO WHICH U.S., THE ONLY COUNTRY CAPABLE OF ADVANCING PEACE IN THE AREA, HAD DEVOTED CONSIDERABLE TIME AND ENERGY. HE WAS PLEASED THE MODERATES HAD CARRIED THE DAY IN CAIRO ON THIS QUESTION.

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